A portrait of Johnny Rivers, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark turtleneck and a blue textured jacket. He is holding a red hollow-body electric guitar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

**Johnny  
Rivers**

**ANTHOLOGY**

**1964-1977**

disc two

RHINO

disc  
two

Johnny Rivers ANTHOLOGY 1964-1977

R2 70793

RHINO



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1. Summer Rain
2. Look To Your Soul
- \* 3. Brother, Where Are You
- \* 4. Going Back To Big Sur
- \* 5. Whiter Shade Of Pale
6. These Are Not My People
- \* 7. City Ways
- \* 8. You Better Move On
9. Muddy River
10. Into The Mystic
11. Fire And Rain
12. Sea Cruise
13. Rockin' Pneumonia - Boogie Woogie Flu
14. Blue Suede Shoes
15. Help Me Rhonda
- \* 16. Outside Help
17. Swayin' To The Music (Slow Dancin')
- \* CD BONUS TRACKS

Produced for Compact Disc by Bill Inglot

COMPACT  
disc  
DIGITAL AUDIO

AAD

All Tracks courtesy EMI, a Division of Capitol Records, Inc., under license from CEMA Special Markets, except: "Rockin' Pneumonia - Boogie Woogie Flu" and "Blue Suede Shoes" © 1972 & 1973 United Artists Records, Inc., also courtesy of EMI, a Division of Capitol Records, Inc., under license from CEMA Special Markets. "Help Me Rhonda" © 1975 Epic Records, under license from Sony Music Special Products, a Division of Sony Music Entertainment Inc. "Outside Help" and "Swayin' To The Music (Slow Dancin')" © 1977 Soul City Records, Inc., licensed from Soul City Records, Inc.

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Johnny Rivers ANTHOLOGY 1964-1977

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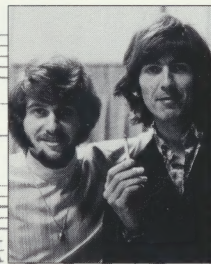
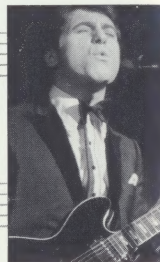
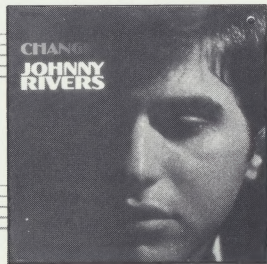


Johnny included "Phoenix" (he also published it) on his 1966 *Changes* album and wanted to release it as a single, but he felt it sounded too much like "Poor Side." Realizing its potential, he gave an advance copy of *Changes* to Glen Campbell's Capitol Records producer Al DeLory. Copying Rivers note for note, Campbell wound up with a hit that advanced him to superstar status.

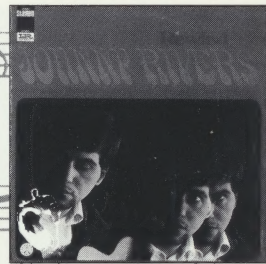
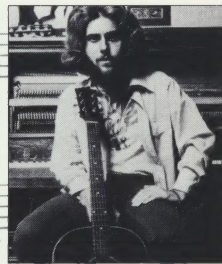
Nonetheless, Johnny's knack for picking singles remained intact. He recorded The Four Tops' 1964 R&B hit "**Baby I Need Your Lovin'**," and in early 1967 it went to #3, proving Rivers' change in style was correct. He followed up with another inspired Motown cover, "**The Tracks Of My Tears**," a Smokey Robinson tune that was a #3 R&B hit for The Miracles in 1965. Rivers' version reached #10. Both songs appeared on his *Rewind* album.

Around 1966 he'd discovered The Versatiles, a male-female R&B vocal group he felt could be "the black Mamas & Papas." "When I met 'em, they were all dressing alike, in the black mohair and the patent leather shoes, strictly a Motown thing," Rivers says. He produced the group, renamed The 5th Dimension, for Soul City. In early '67, their first single, a remake of The Mamas & The Papas' "Go Where You Wanna Go" went Top 20. Later that year their Top 10 version of Jimmy Webb's "Up-Up And Away" firmly established them.

In 1967 The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* album and the "Summer of Love" brought progressive rock to the world. Johnny admired Jimi Hendrix, The Buffalo Springfield, The Doors and the era's other great progressive acts. He and Lou Adler put up part of the seed money



Johnny with George Harrison



for the Monterey Pop Festival. Yet he also saw artists going progressive strictly to be trendy, not because they believed in the music, and he refused to join them. "I never wanted to jump on that (progressive) stuff because I didn't need to and (for me) it wasn't honest," he says. "I would have fallen on my ass just like the rest of them who tried it and didn't do it honestly."

"**Summer Rain**," James Hendrix' minor-key ballad, had a passing mention of *Sgt. Pepper* but was otherwise much in the same style Johnny had been pursuing. Early in 1968 it peaked at #14. That year, *Realization*, his first self-produced album, appeared. It included "**Brother, Where Are You**," "**Going Back To Big Sur**" and a cover of Procol Harum's "**Whiter Shade Of Pale**."

By 1969, his Imperial singles were charting lower. "**These Are Not My People**" made it to #55, and James Hendrix' "**Muddy River**" got to #41. His sublime 1970 version of Van Morrison's "**Into The Mystic**" only reached #51. That same year he almost beat the composer of "**Fire And Rain**," James Taylor, to the punch with his version, his final single for Imperial. Almost.

"Somebody brought me this album and said there were a couple of really good songs on it," Rivers remembers. "I had never heard of James Taylor. I thought 'Fire And Rain' was a great song so I called James Burton and some of the guys and we went in and cut it. We put it out and it started takin' off. Then Warner Brothers (Taylor's label) woke up and saw it hittin' the charts and said, 'We've got something with this guy,' and they pulled out all the stops. The radio stations stopped playin' my version and started playin'



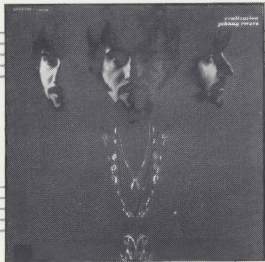
James Taylor's."

When Liberty and Imperial were absorbed by United Artists, Rivers remained with the company. He also returned to covering rock classics. His first UA single, in 1971, was a cover of Frankie Ford's "**Sea Cruise**" it took him back to his Louisiana roots but only reached #84. By 1972 he had formed the band that would back him on his *L.A. Reggae* LP. This group, featuring Larry Knechtel, guitarist Dean Parks, and drummer Jim Gordon, could be heard on the single that returned him to the Top 10, Huey "Piano" Smith & The Clowns' "**Rockin' Pneumonia - Boogie Woogie Flu**," another Louisiana classic and #6 hit in 1972.

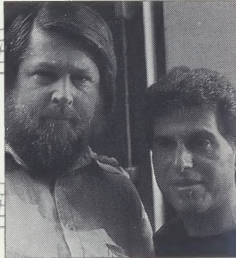
"Larry Knechtel was the one who suggested I do 'Rockin' Pneumonia,'" Rivers says. "He collected all those old Ace Records, and of course he played the piano on it which I thought was classic." As for the cohesion that marked the entire album he says, "I had that good studio sound and a tight band with a real groove in it because Jim Gordon was probably at his height at the time."

Rivers toured with a similar version of this group and cut a live album in Paris, released by Atlantic in Europe, but unissued in the States. His hard-rocking version of "**Blue Suede Shoes**" gave him his final hit with UA (#38) in 1973. Unhappy with UA's corporate mentality and ever-changing executives, he signed with Atlantic in 1974 and recorded his *Road* album in Nashville and Muscle Shoals. In 1975 he signed with Epic and remade The Beach Boys' "**Help Me Rhonda**," a significant record.

"We got Brian Wilson back in the studio," Rivers says proudly. "He sang the high



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Brian Wilson and Johnny Rivers



5

harmony on the record. I played it for him on the phone after I'd cut the track, with my vocal, and we were gonna put some background vocals on it. He said 'It sounds like a hit.' I said, 'Why don't you come down and help us out with it?' I never thought he'd show up. He came down with his wife the next day and put that part on in one take and it was just perfect."

Rivers kept Soul City active for his own singles and promoted them through independent distributors, including his last big hit (#10), **Swayin' To The Music (Slow Dancin')** in 1977. Once he'd gotten airplay and sales in a number of cities with the song, Atlantic President Ahmet Ertegun suggested he take it to the independent label Big Tree, distributed by Atlantic.

Johnny Rivers has never retired from recording or the road. He's toured consistently and enjoys popularity overseas, particularly in South America. In 1990 and 1991 he has been recording in the same L.A. studio where he recorded many of his earlier hits. He still uses a Gibson ES-335 onstage. He expresses delight with the resurgence of the blues, feeling their honesty and grit have had a cleansing effect.

"It's finally gotten back to where everyone's accepting that genuine sound again rather than the techno-pop stuff," he says. The 36 songs on this anthology are testimony to the era of "genuine sound." Genuine is the only way Rivers knew—and knows—how to do it.

—Rich Kienzle



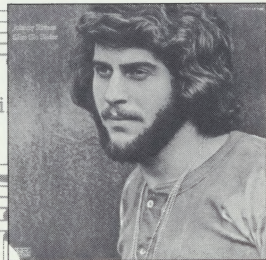
Disc One:

1. **Memphis**  
(Berry)  
(Imperial single #66032, 5/64)<sup>A</sup>
2. **Maybelline**  
(Berry/Fratto/Freed)  
(Imperial single #66056, 8/64)<sup>B</sup>
3. **Mountain Of Love**  
(Dorman)  
(Imperial single #66075, 10/64)<sup>C</sup>
4. **Midnight Special**  
(Arr. & Adpt. by Rivers)  
(Imperial single #66087, 1/65)<sup>B</sup>
5. **Cupid**  
(Cooke)  
(B-side of "Midnight Special,"  
Imperial single #66087, 1/65)<sup>C</sup>
6. **Seventh Son**  
(Dixon)  
(Imperial single #66112, 5/65)<sup>D</sup>
7. **Parchman Farm**  
(Allison)  
(from the album *Meanwhile Back  
At The Whisky A Go Go*,  
Imperial #12284, 6/65)<sup>D</sup>
8. **Where Have All  
The Flowers Gone?**  
(Seeger)  
(Imperial single #66133, 9/65)<sup>E</sup>
9. **Under Your Spell Again**  
(Owens)  
(Imperial single #66144, 11/65)<sup>\*</sup>
10. **Secret Agent Man**  
(Sloan/Barri)  
(Imperial single #66159, 2/66)<sup>F</sup>
11. **(I Washed My Hands In)  
Muddy Water**  
(Babcock)  
(Imperial single #66175, 5/66)<sup>G</sup>

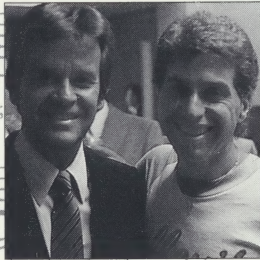
12. **Poor Side Of Town**  
(Rivers/Adler)  
(Imperial single #66205, 9/66)<sup>H</sup>
13. **By The Time I Get To Phoenix**  
(Webb)  
(from the album *Changes*,  
Imperial #12334, 11/66)<sup>H</sup>
14. **Do You Want To Dance?**  
(Freeman)  
(from the album *Changes*,  
Imperial #12334, 11/66)<sup>H</sup>
15. **Baby I Need Your Lovin'**  
(Holland/Dozier/Holland)  
(Imperial single #66227, 1/67)<sup>I</sup>
16. **The Tracks Of My Tears**  
(Robinson/Tarplin/Moore)  
(Imperial single #66244, 5/67)<sup>I</sup>
17. **Do What You Gotta' Do**  
(Webb)  
(from the album *Rewind*,  
Imperial #12341, 5/67)<sup>I</sup>
18. **Tunesmith**  
(Webb)  
(from the album *Rewind*,  
Imperial #12341, 5/67)<sup>I</sup>
19. **It's Too Late**  
(Goldsboro)  
(from the album *Whisky A Go-Go  
Revisited*, Sunset/Liberty #5157, 8/67)<sup>J</sup>

Disc Two:

1. **Summer Rain**  
(Hendricks)  
(Imperial single #66267, 11/67)<sup>K</sup>
2. **Look To Your Soul**  
(Hendricks)  
(Imperial single #66286, 3/68)<sup>K</sup>
3. **Brother, Where Are You**  
(Brown)  
(from the album *Realization*,  
Imperial #12372, 5/68)<sup>K</sup>



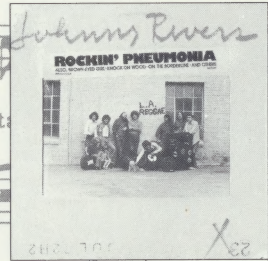
6



Dick Clark and Johnny



Johnny with Al Jardine



7



4. **Going Back To Big Sur**  
(Rivers)  
(from the album *Realization*,  
Imperial #12372, 5/68)<sup>K</sup>
5. **Whiter Shade Of Pale**  
(Reid/Brooker)  
(from the album *Realization*,  
Imperial #12372, 5/68)<sup>K</sup>
6. **These Are Not My People**  
(South)  
(Imperial single #66360, 2/69)\*
7. **City Ways**  
(Hendricks)  
(from the album *A Touch Of Gold*,  
Imperial #12427, 5/69)<sup>L</sup>
8. **You Better Move On**  
(Alexander)  
(from the album *A Touch Of Gold*,  
Imperial #12427, 5/69)<sup>L</sup>
9. **Muddy River**  
(Hendricks)  
(Imperial single #66386, 6/69)<sup>M</sup>
10. **Into The Mystic**  
(Morrison)  
(Imperial single #66448, 4/70)<sup>M</sup>
11. **Fire And Rain**  
(Taylor)  
(Imperial single #66453, 8/70)<sup>N</sup>
12. **Sea Cruise**  
(Smith)  
(United Artists single #50778, 4/71)\*
13. **Rockin' Pneumonia -  
Boogie Woogie Flu**  
(Vincent/Smith)  
(United Artists single #50960, 9/72)<sup>O</sup>
14. **Blue Suede Shoes**  
(Perkins)  
(United Artists single #198, 2/73)<sup>P</sup>

15. **Help Me Rhonda**  
(Wilson)  
(Epic single #50121, 6/75)<sup>R</sup>
16. **Outside Help**  
(Rivers/Knapton)  
(B-side of "Ashes And Sand,"  
Soul City single #007, 1/77)<sup>T</sup>
17. **Swayin' To The Music  
(Slow Dancin')**  
(Tempchin)  
(Soul City single #008, 4/77)<sup>T</sup>

Disc One:  
ORIGINAL RECORDINGS PRODUCED BY  
LOU ADLER

Disc Two:  
ORIGINAL RECORDINGS PRODUCED BY  
JOHNNY RIVERS, except:  
Track 6 Produced by Lou Adler  
Tracks 7 & 8 Produced by Johnny Rivers & Bones Howe  
Tracks 9 & 10 Produced by Lou Adler & Johnny Rivers

Special Thanks to these very talented  
musicians:

**Eddie Rubin** - drums

**Joe Osborn** - bass

**Larry Knechtel** - keyboards

**Hal Blaine** - drums & percussion

**James Burton** - guitar

**Jimmy Webb** - keyboards

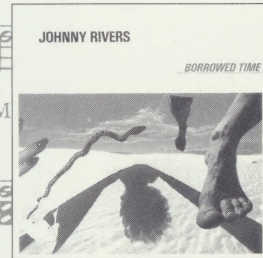
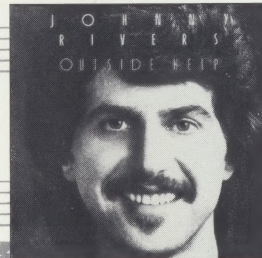
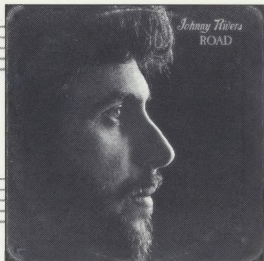
**Dean Parks** - guitar

**Jim Gordon** - drums

**Harlan Rogers** - keyboards

**Jim Horn** - tenor sax

"Secret Agent Man" Words and Music  
by P.F. Sloan and Steve Barri  
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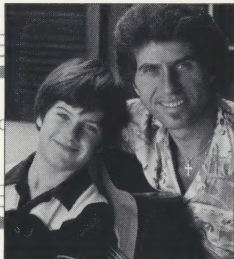
## A Select "Johnny Rivers" Album Discography

### Album Discography

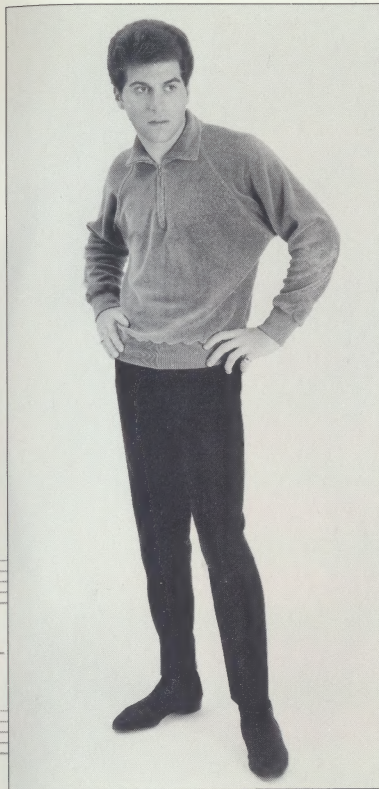
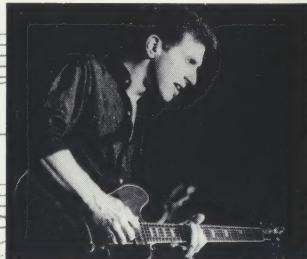
- A. *Johnny Rivers At The Whisky A Go Go*, Imperial #12264, 6/64
- B. *Here We A Go Go Again!*, Imperial #12274, 10/64
- C. *Johnny Rivers In Action!*, Imperial #12280, 2/65
- D. *Meanwhile Back At The Whisky A Go Go*, Imperial #12284, 6/65
- E. *Johnny Rivers Rocks The Folk*, Imperial #12293, 9/65
- F. *...And I Know You Wanna Dance*, Imperial #12307, 4/66
- G. *Johnny Rivers' Golden Hits*, Imperial #12324, 9/66
- H. *Changes*, Imperial #12334, 11/66
- I. *Rewind*, Imperial #12341, 5/67
- J. *Whisky A Go-Go Revisited*, Sunset/Liberty #5157, 8/67
- K. *Realization*, Imperial #12372, 5/68
- L. *A Touch Of Gold*, Imperial #12427, 5/69

- M. *Slim Slo Slider*, Imperial #16001, 7/70
- N. *Homegrown*, United Artists #5532, 7/71
- O. *L.A. Reggae*, United Artists #5650, 8/72
- P. *Blue Suede Shoes*, United Artists #075, 4/73
- Q. *Road*, Atlantic #7301, 4/74
- R. *New Lovers And Old Friends*, Epic #33681, 9/75
- S. *Wild Night*, United Artists #486, 2/76
- T. *Outside Help*, Soul City #76004, 12/77
- U. *Borrowed Time*, RSO #3082, 6/80
- V. *Not A Through Street*, Priority/CBS #38439, 1/83

\* Denotes selection previously unavailable on LP

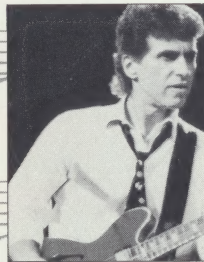


Johnny and his son, Michael



Compilation: **Gary Stewart**  
Produced for Compact Disc by: **Bill Inglot**  
Project Supervision: **James Austin**  
Research/Coordination: **Gary Peterson**  
Art Direction: **Geoff Gans**  
Design: **Brigid Pearson**  
Photos: **Johnny Rivers, Michael Ochs Archives**  
Digital Prep & Transfers: **Bill Inglot & Ken Perry**  
Project Assistance: **Chris Walsh, Brian Gari, Jim Schumacher, Gary Theroux, Mike Hawkinson/Discollector, Parker, Colorado**  
Special Thanks: **Chris Walsh, Ruth McCarty**

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# Johnny Rivers

## ANTHOLOGY 1964-1977

1. SUMMER RAIN
2. LOOK TO YOUR SOUL
3. BROTHER,  
WHERE ARE YOU
4. GOING BACK TO BIG SUR
5. WHITER SHADE OF PALE
6. THESE ARE NOT  
MY PEOPLE
7. CITY WAYS
8. YOU BETTER MOVE ON
9. MUDDY RIVER



10. INTO THE MYSTIC
11. FIRE AND RAIN
12. SEA CRUISE
13. ROCKIN' PNEUMONIA -  
BOOGIE WOOGIE FLU
14. BLUE SUEDE SHOES
15. HELP ME RHONDA
16. OUTSIDE HELP
17. SWAYIN' TO  
THE MUSIC  
(SLOW DANCIN')

## Disc Two

RHINO

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